

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 GSA-02 INT-05 EB-07 OPIC-03 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2295

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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DEPARTMENT PASS OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, EMIN, WZ

SUBJECT: COAL DEPOSITS IN SWAZILAND

1. WHILE IT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS THAT SWAZILAND HAS COMMERCIALY VIABLE COAL DEPOSITS, THE EXTENT OF THE DEPOSITS IS STILL UNCERAIN.

2. RRECENT EXPLORATION BY SHELL COAL, ANGLO-AMERICAN, AND JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INDUSTRIES INDICATES THAT SAWZILAND'S RESERVES ARE IN EXCESS OF ONE BILLION TONS. DIRECTOR OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND MINES TOLD EMBOFF THAT DEPOSITS IN NORTHERN SWAZILAND ALONE (ORIGINALLY EXPECTED TO BE A SECONDARY COAL AREA) MAY BE ONE BILLION TONS BY THEMSELVES.

3. AFTER INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOS OFFICIALS, EMBOFF BELIEVES THAT GOS WOULD BE WILLING TO INVEST IN COAL PROCESSING

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TECHNOLOGY RATHER THAN SIMPLY EXPORT COAL.

4. POST BELIEVES THAT THIS SITUATION REPRESENTS AN EXCELLENT OPPORUTNITY FOR AN AREA OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY, IN WHICH US IS WORLD LEADER, TO PRE-EMPT SOUTH AFRICAN AND UK INVESTMENT IN SWAZILAND.

5. ALSO, WE FEEL TIME TO BE CRITICAL FACTOR. UN-
QUESTIONABLY, AS WORD SPREADS, UK AND SOUTH AFRICAN
FIRMS WILL BECOME ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN SELLING
ADVANCED COAL PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY TO SWAZILAND.

6. REQUEST THAT USDOC IDENTIFY FIRMS ABLE AND
WILLING TO BRING COAL PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY TO
AFRICAN STATES AND NOTIFY THEM OF EXISTING SITUATION
IN SWAZILAND. COMMENT: WHILE NOT RULING OUT ANY TYPE OF COAL
PROCESSING, COMMERCE MAY WISH TO FIRST IDENTIFY FIRMS INVOLVED IN
COAL GASIFICATION AS A USGS GEOLOGIST ON A RECENT VISIT
TO SWAZILAND SUGGESTED THAT GIVEN VARIOUS FACTORS
INVOLVED, COAL GASIFICATION WOULD BE IDEAL METHOD
FOR SWAZILAND.

DECON ON RECEIPT.
WACHOB

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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